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COUNTRY

Argentina/Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT

Reactions in Argentine Slav Colony to Tito-Moscow

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- The Cominform communique denouncing Marshal Tito came as a shock to the Yugoslav Communists in Argentina and left them in a temporary state of complete discrientation although the majority of these Communists are faithful followers of Tito. Several meetings of Yugoslav Communists were postponed because of the resulting excitement.
- Seasoned Communists of Yugoeslavia Libre maintain that the current crisis resulted from Bulgarian intrigue and that Stalin will settle the matter as soon as he realizes that the Yugoslav people unitedly support Marshal Tito.
- Shortly after the announcement in Buenos Aires of the Cominform's communique, the Union Eslava issued special orders to all its subsidiary branches forbidding discussions of the current difficulties in Yugoslavia until specific instructions are received from Moscow. It was announced that a special council meeting would be held on 18 July at Calle Choele Choel 2048 in Valentin Alsina, at which time it is believed that local policy vis-a-vis the Yugoslav-Soviet crisis was to be explained in accordance with Moscow's directives. It was further anticipated that Yugoslav delegates would not be invited to attend the council meeting.

The Union Eslava distributed secret circulars to its sub-committees which gave the following instructions:

- Do not give way to spontaneous and unauthorized manifestations related to the present Yugoslav situation;
- Withhold cables to Belgrade supporting the Tito regime;
- Attempt to prevent declarations in the Argentine press concerning the situation;
- Await further instructions from the Union Eslava.
- The Soviet Embassy in Buenos Aires is campaigning against Tito and has issued definite instructions to the Union Eslava regarding the attitude which should be assumed by that organization. On 30 June, Igor Budarin, Soviet Charge d'Affaires personally called at the Communist-controlled printing shop "Abaco" and canceled publication of the Yugoslav Communist newspaper

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Jugoslavenski Vjesnik, which included a pro-Tito article. Budarin also forbade publication of news of the crisis in any of the Slav Communist papers and advised Antonio Dramazonek, Secretary General of the Union Eslava, that he would be held responsible for carrying out the Embassy's order. Although Dramazonek is considered to be a Tito follower, it is known that he complied with Budarin's order and confiscated all material related to Tito or the Yugoslav-Soviet crisis. These orders created a tense atmosphere in the Abaco printing shop.

- 6. On 3 July, Byelorussian Communists in Buenos Aires held a special meeting presided over by Wenceslao Sawicki, Union Eslava representative. During the meeting, Sawicki reluctantly accused Marshal Tito of the following:
  - a. He sought the support of the Kulaks and not of the peasants and workers;
  - b. He is reported to have declared that he is willing to reach an agreement with the Western Allies;
  - c. He has asked for a loan of half a billion dollars from the United States.

Sawicki was applauded at the end of his speech when he stated that the Cominform communique was signed by Zhdanof and Malenko and was, therefore, unquestionable. Tito's portrait was removed from the wall of the meeting hall, and the members pledged their allegiance to the Communist Party and to the Union Eslava.

7. The local Communist press published the text of the Cominform communique and included an endorsement of it which was signed by the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina.

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